

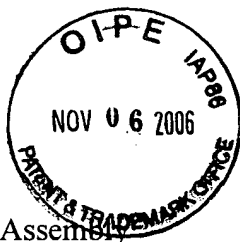
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In Re: U.S. Patent Application of  
Burns P. Phillips et al.

Application No. 10/687,267

Filed: October 15, 2003

For: Swivel Retractor Blade Assembly



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) Examiner: Vicky A. Johnson  
)  
) Conf. No.: 9960  
)  
) Art Unit: 3682  
)  
) Atty Docket No.: 77119-020 (5431P003)

**REPLY TO JULY 5, 2006 FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

MAIL STOP AF  
Commissioner For Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Examiner:

This Reply is in response to the final Office Action mailed July 5, 2006. This Reply is being submitted within one month following the three month shortened statutory time period noted in the final Office Action. Accordingly, a Petition for a one month extension of time is included herewith.

Applicants extend their thanks to the Examiner for participating in the telephonic interview, held November 1, 2006, and for (a) suggesting the proposed amendment to independent claim 1, and (b) agreeing that independent claims 10 and 17 were patentable over the cited art as previously submitted. Reconsideration of the referenced application, including all pending claims, is respectfully requested in light of the amendments and the remarks set forth below.

This Reply is being submitted in a form which complies with revised 37 C.F.R. 1.121. Accordingly, all pending claims are identified by number and appropriate status identifier.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of the claims which begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.